

**Government Decree on
the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland**

**847/2005
27 October 2005**

Section 1. Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland

1. For the handling of important matters concerning research, technology and their utilisation and evaluation there shall be a Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland.

Section 2. The remit of the Council

1. The remit of the Council shall be to assist the Government and its ministries by:
 - (1) following international developments in research and technology and the development needs they cause in Finnish research and technology
 - (2) addressing major matters relating to science and technology policy and preparing plans and proposals concerning them for the Government;
 - (3) addressing the overall development of scientific research and researcher training;
 - (4) addressing the development and utilisation of technology and technology impact analysis;
 - (5) addressing important matters relating to international science and technology cooperation;
 - (6) addressing the development and allocation of public research and innovation funding;
 - (7) addressing important legislative questions concerning research, technology and scientific education; and
 - (8) taking initiatives and putting forward proposals in matters within its remit to the Government and its ministries.

Section 3. Composition of the Council

1. The members of the Council shall be the Prime Minister as chair, the Minister of Education and Science and the Minister of Trade and Industry as vice-chairs, the Minister of Finance and up to four other ministers appointed by the Government. In the appointment, care shall be taken to ensure that the administrative sectors of major relevance to research are represented on the Council.
2. In addition to the ministerial members, the Council shall comprise ten other members well versed in matters within the purview of the Council. The Council shall include the representation of the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, the universities, business and industry, and employees. The Government shall appoint the non-ministerial members for a term corresponding to the parliamentary term. Their term of office shall continue until the new members have been appointed.

3. If a Council member resigns or becomes incapable of executing his or her duties during the term of office, the Ministry of Education, after having heard the Ministry of Trade and Industry, shall appoint a new member in his or her place for the remainder of the term.

Section 4. Subcommittees

1. The Council shall have a science policy subcommittee and a technology policy subcommittee. The Council may delegate power of decision in matters expressly specified by it to a subcommittee.
2. The science policy subcommittee shall be chaired by the Minister of Education and Science and the technology policy subcommittee by the Minister of Trade and Industry. The Ministry of Education shall appoint one member to the science policy subcommittee and the Ministry of Trade and Industry one member to the technology policy subcommittee. Each of these members shall serve as vice-chair of their subcommittees. The Council shall appoint the other members of the subcommittees from amongst themselves.
3. The Council may also set up other subcommittees from amongst its members to prepare matters.
4. The Council and its subcommittees may consult permanent and ad hoc experts.

Section 5. Operation of the Council

1. The Council and its subcommittees shall meet at the invitation of the chairman or, if he or she is indisposed, at the invitation of a vice-chair.
2. The Council is quorate when the chair or one of the vice chairmen and at least six other Council members are present. A subcommittee is quorate when, including the chair or the vice-chair, at least half the members of the subcommittee are present. Matters shall be decided by simple majority. If the votes are equal, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

Section 6. Secretariat

1. For the preparation of matters, the Council shall have a secretariat comprising a full-time secretary general and at least two full-time chief planning officers within the scope of the State Budget.
2. The secretary general shall lead the work of the secretariat. The secretary general shall be appointed by the Government after having heard the Council. The chief planning officer acting as secretary to the science policy subcommittee shall be appointed by the Ministry of Education and the chief planning officer acting as secretary to the technology policy subcommittee by the Ministry of Trade and Industry after having heard the Council. The secretary general and the chief planning officers shall be appointed for a maximum term of four years at a time.

- 3 . The qualification requirement for the secretary general shall be a Master's degree, proficiency required for the post and proven leadership skills.
- 4 . The qualification requirement for a chief planning officer shall be a Master's degree and proficiency required for the post.
- 5 . The Council's clerical work shall be performed at the Ministry of Education.

Section 7. Fees

- 1 . The amount of remuneration to be paid to the chair, members, experts and secretaries for attendance at meetings shall be determined by the Ministry of Education. Compensation for the cost of travel shall be subject to the terms of the state collective agreement.

Section 8. Entry into force

- 1 . This Decree comes into force on 1 January 2006.
- 2 . This Decree repeals the Decree of 12 December 1986 on the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland (934/1986), with subsequent amendments. The Science and Technology Policy Council appointed under the Decree to be repealed shall function as the Council referred to in this Decree and its term shall continue until the new members have been appointed after the National Election held after the entry into force of this Decree.
- 3 . At the entry into force of this Decree, the secretariat of the Science and Technology Policy Council of Finland shall carry on as the secretariat referred to in this Decree.
- 4 . Measures needed to implement this Decree may be taken before the Decree comes into force.